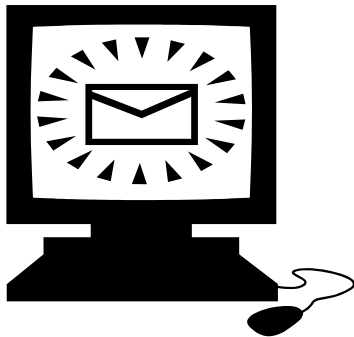


## Don't let this be your last issue!

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- Take the survey online at <http://lmi.idaho.gov/survey>
- Let us know if you want to start getting your newsletter via e-mail (and help cut down on paper and mailing costs).



- BE SURE TO FILL IN YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS AND CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS!

(We're going electronic now!)



**OR**

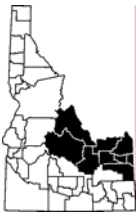
- Fill out the short survey on the inside back page of this newsletter.
- Remove survey and mail it back to us **BY JULY 31** to:

Public Affairs—Newsletter Survey  
Idaho Commerce & Labor  
317 W. Main St.  
Boise, ID 83735

If we do not hear from you, we will assume you no longer want to receive *Idaho Employment*. It is always available online at <http://lmi.idaho.gov> under Publications.

If you have any questions, send us an e-mail at [lmi@cl.idaho.gov](mailto:lmi@cl.idaho.gov).  
THANKS!

Editors, Idaho Employment



# East Central Idaho News

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON & TETON COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area posted a 2.9 percent unemployment rate for May, up fractionally from the month before as the civilian labor force rose slightly. But May's rate was a third of a point below the year-ago level despite the labor force growing by over 2,300 people. Total unemployed decreased by 90 as seen in East Central Idaho Table 1. Job growth in all industries from the same time last year is keeping the rate low and helping the area continue to grow. Retail sectors, construction and professional and business support services are very strong. All other counties in east central Idaho ranged between 2.8 percent and 5 percent unemployment. Idaho Falls' rate was 2.9 percent. The state rate was 3.5 percent.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Bonneville County

- Destinations Inn, the downtown luxury theme hotel that underwent major interior remodeling of a 100-year-old building for the location effects, is now open. The 14 suites each feature a different theme: England, Egypt, Paris, Arabia, Alaska, Congo, Thailand, Rio de Janeiro, New York, Morocco, Venice, Washington D.C., Rome and Hawaii. Owner and visionary Rob Bishop pulled this all off, sparing no expense to make the customers feel like they are really on a vacation far away from Idaho Falls. Each room has a king-size bed, chromatherapy Champagne Bubbler bathtub, stereo projection TV and elaborate lighting. Some even have aromatherapy steam showers. Sleeping in a Sheik's tent, walking down a drawbridge or exploring a hidden diamond mine are only three possible adventures. Although honeymooners are expected to be the target customers, Bishop says the hotel is for all people with romantic bones in their bodies. Exquisitely lovely with

East Central Idaho Table 1: Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	May 2006*	Apr 2006	May 2005	% Change From Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	62,950	62,870	60,620	0.1	3.8
Unemployment	1,830	1,780	1,920	2.8	-4.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9%	2.8%	3.2%		
Total Employment	61,120	61,090	58,700	0.0	4.1
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	62,730	61,790	60,390	1.5	3.9
Unemployment	1,440	1,720	1,550	-16.3	-7.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.3%	2.8%	2.6%		
Total Employment	61,290	60,070	58,840	2.0	4.2
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	54,430	54,140	50,850	0.5	7.0
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	7,500	7,320	6,750	2.5	11.1
Natural Resources & Mining	60	50	40	20.0	50.0
Construction	4,170	4,000	3,580	4.3	16.5
Manufacturing	3,270	3,270	3,130	0.0	4.5
Food Manufacturing	1,060	1,060	1,060	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	270	270	210	0.0	28.6
Machinery Manufacturing	150	150	160	0.0	-6.3
Other Manufacturing	1,790	1,790	1,700	0.0	5.3
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	46,930	46,820	44,100	0.2	6.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,560	13,430	12,660	1.0	7.1
Wholesale Trade	4,300	4,270	3,940	0.7	9.1
Retail Trade	7,590	7,500	7,190	1.2	5.6
Utilities	60	60	60	0.0	0.0
Transportation	1,610	1,600	1,470	0.6	9.5
Information	1,190	1,170	1,110	1.7	7.2
Financial Activities	2,120	2,120	1,950	0.0	8.7
Professional & Business Services	9,680	9,930	8,880	-2.5	9.0
Educational & Health Services	6,930	3,940	6,560	75.9	5.6
Leisure & Hospitality	4,480	4,390	4,170	2.1	7.4
Other Services	2,020	2,000	1,940	1.0	4.1
Government Education	3,610	3,580	3,540	0.8	2.0
Government Administration	3,340	3,260	3,290	2.5	1.5

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

five-star accommodations, Destinations Inn information can be found at <http://www.destinationsinn.com> and quick walk-throughs can even be arranged at off-hours after checking with the front desk.

- United Express now offers two daily round-trip flights to Denver from the Idaho Falls Regional Airport. This is an expansion into the Idaho Falls market by SkyWest, which is the Delta Connection from Salt Lake City. The 50- and 70-seat jets depart from Idaho Falls at 7:30 a.m. and 1:22 p.m. and arrive from Denver early afternoon and late

night except Saturday, when arrival is mid-evening. The regional airport now has direct flights to Denver, Minneapolis, Seattle, Salt Lake City and Las Vegas.

- Eastern Idaho Technical College held a groundbreaking ceremony in late May for the new health education building that the school will share with Idaho State University. The building is within a mile of Idaho Falls' large hospital. The \$10 million, 45,000 square-foot building will be two stories and just across from the entrance of Wal-Mart. It will house Eastern Idaho Technical College's associate degree registered nurse program and Idaho State's nurse training programs ranging from licensed practical nursing to masters-level registered nursing. It also offers radiation technology and respiratory therapy programs. It will include 14 standard classrooms, two distance learning classrooms and two large classrooms along with simulated operating and inpatient care rooms. A dental facility with 10 chairs will be fully-functional and open to the public for training purposes. This cooperative arrangement has been in the works for many years and will open the way for increased training for a high-demand industry that will only grow as more medical attention is sought by retiring baby boomers in an area where the population is growing significantly.

#### Lemhi County

- A total of \$350,000 from Salmon High School alumnus Brad Duke of Meridian and Bart Templeman of Coeur d'Alene will make it possible for the high school to get a seven-lane, all-weather track and a new fence, a new well and underground sprinkler system. Construction should be completed by the end of summer.

#### Madison County

- Applebee's has submitted site plans to the city of Rexburg and is preparing to submit the building application for a location near the South Rexburg exit off U.S. Highway 20. Rexburg has been talking with the company for several weeks about permits and signage. The city has been asking for a large, family-style restaurant for some time. Local liquor laws have been a stumbling block in the past, and it is still unclear if the restaurant will be allowed to offer liquor. If everything goes through, this will make the 11<sup>th</sup> Applebee's in Idaho.
- Brigham Young University-Idaho in Rexburg is still expanding. The university will finally get an auditorium that can seat all of its students at the same time. Right now, the Hart Auditorium can only accommodate 4,200 people, about 35 percent of the

student body. The new auditorium and activity center will seat 12,000 to 15,000, comparable in size to Idaho State University's Holt Arena, which seats 12,000, or Boise State University's Taco Bell Arena, which seats 13,000. The activity center will also include eight outdoor basketball courts. The ground is already being leveled just behind the John Hart Physical Education Building. The Eliza R. Snow Performing Arts Building's 40,000 square-foot addition is near completion, two new soccer-softball artificial turf fields and two natural grass fields are to be completed this fall just south of the campus and planning has begun on a 100,000 square-foot addition to the Hyrum Manwaring Student Center to add more study, bookstore and food service space and enclose the walkway between the center and the library. Since two-year Ricks College became Brigham Young University-Idaho five years ago, the university has added six buildings and remodeled many others.

- On June 20, Gov. Jim Risch personally presented three \$500,000 Community Development Block Grants for Rexburg and Madison County. One \$500,000 grant will help finance a new training facility for Upper Valley Industries in the Rexburg Business Park. The Upper Valley Industries provides employment for those with disabilities. A second grant will help develop a new downtown square that will include improved city parking. The square will be located where the old Madison Co-op sits on East Main Street and the alley behind it. The third grant is for a county ATV trail. The block grants come from the Department of Housing and Urban Development through Idaho Commerce & Labor. All the projects mesh with the plan that was developed several years ago by the city for serving its community better.

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***Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey below. Don't forget the last question so you will keep receiving Idaho Employment!***

1. What newsletter sections are valuable to you? Please rate the value of each section by circling one from 1 to 5 (1- least valuable, 5= most valuable)

Labor force & nonfarm data	1	2	3	4	5
Regional news	1	2	3	4	5
FYI	1	2	3	4	5
State overview	1	2	3	4	5
Overall newsletter	1	2	3	4	5

2. How often should Idaho Employment be published? (please check one)

☐ Monthly

☐ Quarterly (includes monthly data)

3. What other economic indicators would you like to see in the newsletter?

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4. Do you use the Labor Market Information Web site — [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. If yes, how often do you go to [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov)?

☐ Daily

☐ Weekly

☐ Monthly

☐ Once in awhile

6. Idaho Employment could be improved by adding the following data or making the following changes:

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